

With the demise of Newt Gingrich, many Republicans think it's time to mute his libelous assault on the Great Society programs he loved to hate. Isn't it also time for Democrats to come out of the closet and recognize the legacy of the president who opened the polls to minorities and established federal beachheads in education, health care and the environment. After all, it's the Democrats' promise to protect these beachheads and forge forward that accounts for much of their success this November and offers their best chance to retain the White House and recapture the House of Representatives in 2000.

TRIBUTE TO BUD MAURO

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 1998

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bud Mauro, who has just completed his term as President of the Southland Regional Association of Realtors. Bud leaves with a remarkable record. During his tenure, San Fernando Valley realtors experienced one of their most productive years in memory, as a housing slump gave way to a housing boom. I'm sure Bud's leadership was a key reason for the stellar performance of the Valley real estate industry in 1998.

Bud had both the experience and background to be a successful President. His real estate career began in 1972, the same year he became a member of the Association. Beginning in 1978, when he joined the Grievance Committee, Bud steadily rose through the ranks. He served on the Professional Standards Panel, Ethics and Arbitration Policy Committee and the Board of Directors.

Bud is a person of considerable charm and an intimate knowledge of the real estate business. Both traits served him well as President. He motivated more than 200 members of the Association to serve on various committees and task forces. I know firsthand how important such groups are in keeping politicians and community leaders informed about the Association and the condition of the real estate industry. Bud was also actively involved with the seminars and training sessions that are such an important part of the Association's function.

Bud played a big part in upgrading the technological capacity of the Association. He worked to expand and improve computer efficiency, and helped to develop the Association's own web site by establishing cooperative marketing agreements with the California Living Network and REALTOR.Com.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Bud Mauro, who compiled an outstanding record as President of the Southland Regional Association of Realtors. His leadership skills and dedication to his work are an inspiration to us all.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN ROMAN PUCINSKI

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 1998

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Roman Pucinski, who represented the northwest side of the City of Chicago in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1959 to 1973.

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From the start of his tenure in Congress, then Representative Pucinski mounted a one-man effort to require airlines to install crash-proof cockpit voice recorders in airplanes. Despite organized opposition from the major airlines, Pucinski kept the pressure on and in 1964 the Federal Aviation Administration issued an order requiring air carriers to install crash-proof cockpit voice recorders in their aircraft. Commonly referred to as the "black box", cockpit voice recorders are now a critical component of aviation safety. Black boxes provide vital information about the final minutes of airline disasters to accident investigators and have helped determine the cause of several plane crashes.

As a decorated Air Force pilot, Pucinski knew that a recording of last minute cockpit conversations would provide vital clues to the cause of airline tragedies. As an Air Force pilot, Pucinski led his bomber group in the first B-29 bombing raid over Tokyo during World War II. He flew 48 other combat missions over Japan and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with Clusters. From his own personal experience as a pilot, Pucinski understood that, in the last few minutes preceding an air tragedy, the cockpit crew are far too busy trying to save their passengers and aircraft to radio formal reports to a ground station. However, a crash-proof tape recorder operating automatically during flight preserves a record of everything said in the cockpit for accident investigators.

Because of Roman Pucinski's dedicated and courageous leadership in the establishment of crash-proof tape recorders in commercial airliners, accident investigation and aviation safety have been significantly advanced in the public interest, and outstanding results for the national aviation system have been achieved. For this reason, on December 18, 1998, former Congressman Roman Pucinski will be honored by the Federal Aviation Administration with a Silver Medal of Distinguished Service.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Roman Pucinski. His tireless advocacy of cockpit voice recorders is one of the most important contributions to airline safety in the history of aviation. Roman Pucinski has made a lasting contribution to aviation safety and he greatly deserves this special honor from the Federal Aviation Administration.

GLOBAL HUNGER AND UNITED NATIONS FOOD AND AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of our colleagues an editorial from former Senator, now Ambassador, George McGovern, concerning global hunger and United Nations Food and Agriculture Program.

George McGovern has distinguished himself through a life-long commitment of service to the United States and to addressing world hunger. As he recounts in this article, it was

his experience in the U.S. Armed Forces in Europe during World War II which first made him aware of the devastating impact of starvation on a population. Thereafter, he devoted much of his effort in the U.S. Senate to programs designed to alleviate famine. Today he is serving his country once more as Ambassador to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Program. And now he is clarifying for us many of the challenges faced by the United Nations in these efforts, and the benefits which they have brought to hundreds of millions of people around the world.

As Ambassador McGovern notes, foreign assistance programs which help the hungry and promote economic development serve the interests of both of the recipient countries and the United States. However, our leadership in this capacity is threatened today by our delinquency in paying our dues to the United Nations. United States contributions to hunger-related organizations are very positive, effective, and should remain a priority of our engagement with the world.

[From the Los Angeles Times, Nov. 23, 1998]

TOO MANY IN THE WORLD ARE LEFT OUT

(By George McGovern)

In the fall of 1944, as a 22-year-old American bomber pilot based in war-torn Italy, I saw widespread hunger for the first time: emaciated children begging for food on the streets, teenage girls selling their bodies to stay alive, young mothers scratching through the garbage dumps near our bomber base to find scraps of food. This was even worse than the hunger I witnessed during the years of the Great Depression in the 1930s, when our family, who lived in a farm community in South Dakota, fed a steady stream of out-of-work "hobos" who came to our door.

Not surprisingly, hunger became a primary issue for me when I was elected to Congress in 1956. I became director of the U.S. Food for Peace program and later was President Kennedy's designee on what came to be known as the World Food Program—the world's largest international food aid organization. Last year, the program provided food assistance for more than 52 million people in 76 countries. Through these programs I saw how much can be done when nations come together to combat hunger. In the past 25 years, for example, despite a doubling of the world's population, the percentage of chronically undernourished people in the world has been cut in half and the absolute number of chronically undernourished people has been reduced by more than 100 million.

We can take heart from these and other similar steps forward, but this does not mean the job is done. This winter, Russia will be facing acute food shortages caused by poor crop conditions and the collapse of the Russian economy. Millions of Russians will go over the edge of starvation in the absence of international food aid now. Indonesia, hurricane-struck Central America and large parts of Africa currently are sustained by international food donations.

The fact is that many of our fellow human beings are left out, living on the knife-edge of existence. As world Bank President James Wolfensohn reminded us, "In too many countries, the poorest 10% of the population has less than 1% of the income, while the richest 20% enjoys over half."

In too many countries, girls are half as likely as boys to go to school. In too many countries, children are impaired from birth because of malnutrition. And in too many countries, ethnic minorities face discrimination and fear for their lives at the hands of ethnic majorities.

In this world of plenty, of marvelous scientific advances, of growing freedoms, we cannot ignore the tragedy of millions who are excluded from the blessings we enjoy. There is a moral imperative to be concerned and to act. It is simply wrong for a child anywhere in the world to suffer the crippling effects of malnutrition. It is wrong—even outrageous—that more than 800 million people, 14% of the human race, are malnourished, many near starvation. It is wrong to accept as “unavoidable” the millions of hungry people we read about or see on TV. It is wrong to let politics and ideology interfere with helping the hungry, especially children. When criticized for helping the communist government of North Korea establish child-feeding programs in that drought-stricken country, Catherine Bertini, who is head of the World Food Program replied, “I can’t tell a hungry 5-year-old boy that we can’t feed him because we don’t like the politics of his country.”

But beyond that, it is in our self-interest to end hunger. After all, we live in one world. Rich and poor alike, we breathe the same air; we share a global economy. Killers like AIDS and environmental calamities and other threats to health don’t stop at national borders. The chaos associated with political instability rooted in poverty and desperation is rarely contained within a single country.

Earlier this year, when President Clinton asked me to be the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations food and agriculture agencies in Rome, I readily accepted because of my lifelong interest in agricultural matters and in solving the problem of hunger. At the agency, I work with such organizations as the Food and Agriculture Organization, which is headed by Senegalese agricultural authority Jacques Diouf; the World Food Program, directed by Bertini, an American, and the International Fund for Agriculture Development, under the direction of Fawzi al Sultan, a Kuwaiti banker. Our common purpose, articulated at the World Food Summit hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization in November 1996, is to reduce hunger by promoting an adequate supply and distribution of food in the world.

This plan, endorsed by all 186 nations represented at the summit, has the practical and achievable goal of reducing by half the number of hungry people in the world by 2015. Consider these facts:

Over the past 50 years, infant and child death rates in the developing world have been reduced by 50% and health conditions around the world have improved more during this period than in all previous human history.

In the past three decades, agricultural production techniques, developed through the internationally supported system of research centers, enabled a “green revolution” in many countries. Improved seed and associated break-throughs in agricultural practices resulted in the most dramatic increase in crop yields in the history of mankind, allowing nations like India and Bangladesh, which in the early 1960s and mid-1970s, respectively, were kept alive through outside food assistance, to become nearly food self-sufficient.

The United States played a leading role in alleviating hunger, especially in the period immediately following World War II, by encouraging the international community to set in place the institutions and methods to address the issue. As prosperity spread across Europe and other parts of the world, more nations have shared in the task of solving the problems of food insecurity.

The Food and Agriculture Organization is providing technical assistance in a variety of ways: establishing productivity-enhancing

technology such as user-managed, small scale irrigation schemes; eradicating and controlling pests like desert locust that threaten food security for millions of people living in a swath extending from the Red Sea to West Africa; monitoring crop conditions around the world to provide early warning of food supply difficulties and disasters; and conserving scarce food resources such as fisheries and biodiversity to protect future food security.

The World Food Program that is meeting emergency food needs in Rwanda, North Korea, Sudan and the Horn of Africa has saved hundreds of thousands of lives. Also, the program often plays a development role in nonemergency situations characterized by chronic hunger and malnutrition, using “food for work” to enable thousands of communities to build schools, improve community water systems and expand other basic infrastructure. And the International Fund for Agricultural Development, established only 20 years ago, provides development loans for addressing the basic needs of small farmers and poor rural communities. The agency was the first to provide funds to the now spectacularly successful Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, which created a model for channeling microcredit to the very poor. The agency is currently supporting similar grassroots microcredit models in West Africa.

Obviously, progress in ending world hunger can be greatly advanced by progress in other related problem areas, including better family planning to restrain excessive population growth. There must also be continuing efforts to halt the bloody and disruptive political and military conflicts in developing countries that drive multitudes of people from their homes, fields and jobs.

Reaching the goal adopted at the World Food Summit, to reduce the number of undernourished people by one-half in the next 17 years, is beyond the capacity of any single country or organization. It will require the effort of many international organizations and national governments and the help of private voluntary organizations, such as CARE, Church World Service, Lutheran World Relief, Catholic Relief Services and the United Jewish Appeal.

The target beneficiaries themselves have a key role to play, because reducing hunger and achieving security is much more than simply distributing food aid. It’s about developing concerned and capable government leadership responsive to citizens. It’s about having sound economic policies and educating people. It’s about reducing disease and improving public health. It’s about improving cultivation practices and making production tools, including rural credit, available. It’s about conserving forests, fisheries, genetic resources and biodiversity. It’s about establishing effective markets. And it’s about having essential infrastructure including farm-to-market roads.

These difficult but achievable soil motivate the U.N. food and agricultural agencies in Rome as they assist communities and nations to eliminate hunger and to establish the basis for sustained productivity. This work requires technical knowledge, cultural sensitivity, organizational development skills, a realistic appreciation for market incentives and a good measure of altruistic motivation.

During a recent trip to Egypt, I visited a rural community in the desert between Cairo and Alexandria. Here, the government has settled about 15,000 families on so-called “new lands.” To prepare these lands for production with water diverted from the Nile River, the settler families undertake the task of desalinating the soil, a repeated process of tilling, flooding and draining that typically takes more than three years. In ad-

dition, an array of basic village facilities and irrigation infrastructure has to be built. The work required of the settlers is backbreaking. But also needed are support, guidance and money, requirements being fulfilled by a collaborative effort of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, which is financing the nonlabor cost of the on-farm infrastructure; the World Food Program, which is supplementing the family diets until the fields come into production, and the Food and Agriculture Organization, which helps monitor and guide the technical aspects involved in getting the land fit for production.

This is the kind of investment activity that leads to sustained food security. This is the kind of activity that Americans and citizens in other donor countries support.

I am proud of the tradition of the people of the United States to give a helping hand to the hungry and to those in need. I am proud of the record of foreign assistance that the United States has provided to nations to undertake essential economic development initiatives; it has paid dividends to both the recipient countries and to us. Likewise, I am proud of the pivotal role that the United States has played in making the system of United Nations agencies strong and effective. It saddens me that the United States is today delinquent in paying what it owes to the U.N., including to the Food and Agriculture Organization, the family of multilateral organizations that plays such a key role in eliminating hunger.

There are no easy solutions to the problems of poverty and underdevelopment in our world. However, eliminating hunger is the place to start and should be our priority. The need is evident. The methods are known. The means can be made available.

TRIBUTE TO A GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 1998

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute two outstanding young women who have been honored with the Girl Scout Gold Award by Farthest North Girl Scout Council in Fairbanks, Alaska. They are: Erin Shaw and Rachel Shaw.

They are being honored for earning the highest achievement award in United States Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The award can be earned by young women aged 14 through 17, or in grades 9 through 12.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., an organization serving over 2.5 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the Gold Award program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must earn four interest project patches, the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, and the Girl Scout Challenge, as well as design and implement a Girl Scout Gold Award project. A plan for fulfilling these requirements is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout volunteer.

As members of Farthest North Girl Scout Council, Erin and Rachel Shaw began working